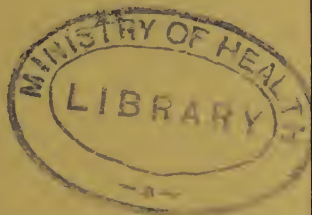


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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
CRICKLADE and WOOTTON BASSETT

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*The*  
**Annual Report**  
*of the*  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
*and*  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the Year 1954



To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of  
CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954 on the state of the public health of the District together with that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

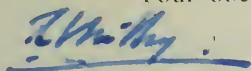
Generally speaking, the health of the District was good and details of the incidence of infectious diseases notified will be found in the body of the report. Compared with 1953 when the incidence reached epidemic proportions, no cases of Measles were notified. On the other hand, Whooping Cough increased to a mild degree in keeping with the general rise in neighbouring areas. Once again it is pleasing to record the absence of any cases of Diphtheria which, nevertheless, can only be held in check by immunisation and efforts to dispel apathy on the part of the public are constantly being made. There were no cases of Poliomyelitis or Food Poisoning.

The Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer briefly summarises a large and increasing volume of work. Regarding housing, the 1953 record figure of 80 post-war Council houses erected was broken and reached 105. In addition 17 houses were constructed by Private Enterprise.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation and thanks for the wholehearted co-operation and assistance from the staff and also from other Departments of your Council.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



R. S. McELROY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1955.

# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954

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**CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
1954-5**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :  
HERBERT JOHN EVELEIGH**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :  
ALFRED JOB WOOLFORD**

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL :  
W. J. HOSIER**

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :  
All the Members of the Council.**

**CHAIRMAN  
S. G. HUBAND**

**HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE  
All the Members of the Council.**

**CHAIRMAN  
HERBERT JOHN EVELEIGH**

# **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT**

**31st December, 1954**

## **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**R. S. McELROY, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.**  
also Medical Officer of Health Highworth Rural District Council,  
Assistant County and School Medical Officer, Wilts County Council)

## **SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :**

**C. E. JAMES, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.**

## **ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :**

**T. L. COX, C.S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Foods, M.S.I.A.**

## **ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :**

**S. MORELAND, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.**

## **RODENT OPERATOR :**

**W. H. BUCKLAND**

## **CLERICAL STAFF :**

**MISS M. SIMPKINS**

**MISS E. M. POCOCK (1.1.54 to 14.8.54)**

**MISS K. M. FOREMAN (from 16.8.54 to end of year)**

(Services shared with Highworth Rural District Council and  
Wiltshire County Council).

## **COUNCIL OFFICES :**

**Manor House,  
Wootton Bassett,  
Wilts.**

**TELEPHONE—**

**Wootton Bassett**

**458**

## **OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :**

**Highworth Rural District Council,  
Council Offices,  
Bath Road, Swindon, Wilts.**

**TELEPHONE—Swindon 4847**

**(House—Wroughton 231).**

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District	.. .. .	45,911 acres
Number of Parishes	.. .. .	14
Estimated Population (including service personnel)		16,410
Number of inhabited houses (permanent)	..	4,383
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£79,994
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£300

**Population :** The estimated population of 16,410 shows an increase of 70 compared with 1953.

**Number of inhabited houses :** The figure of 4,383 shows an increase of 122 over the previous year.

**New houses erected in 1954 :**

By Local Authority	.. .. .	105
By Private Enterprise	.. .. .	17

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births :

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	157	121	278
Illegitimate .. .. .	7	6	13
Total number of live births ..	164	127	291

Live birth rate per 1000 population (corrected) .. 17.75

Live birth rate for England and Wales .. .. . 15.2

Comparability factor for the District .. .. . 1.04

### Still Births :

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .. .. .	5	4	9
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
Total number of still births ..	5	4	9

### Deaths :

Deaths from all causes in the area .. .. . 149

Death rate per 1000 population (corrected) .. .. . 9.89

Death rate for England and Wales .. .. . 11.3

Comparability factor for England and Wales .. .. . 1.09

### Infant Mortality :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate .. ..	4	5	9
Illegitimate .. ..	—	1	1
Total number of deaths ..	4	6	10

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate . . .	1	4	5
Illegitimate .. ..	—	1	1
Total number of deaths ..	1	5	6

### Infant Death Rate :

(Number of infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000  
live births)

.. .. .	34.3
Infant death rate for England and Wales .. ..	25.5

### Deaths from Cancer during 1954 :

Age Group	Site				
	Lungs	Stomach	Breast	Other	Total
30-40	—	—	—	1	1
41-50	1	—	1	—	2
51-60	—	—	—	3	3
61-70	—	2	—	5	7
71-80	1	—	—	7	8
81-90	—	2	2	2	6
TOTAL	2	4	3	18	27



## CAUSES OF DEATH

					Male	Female
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	..	..	..	..	1	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	..	..	..	..	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	4	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	10	3
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	..	..	..	..	15	10
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	8	7
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	2	1
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	9	7
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	4	9
Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	4	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	1
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	3	9
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	7	—
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	5	—
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	1
Total, all causes	..	..	..	..	87	62

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Diseases during 1954 as compared with 1952 and 1953.

Disease	1952	1953	1954
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	23	5	17
Whooping Cough .. .. .	78	25	50
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	12	194	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	5	5
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	—	—	—
Dysentery .. .. .	1	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	1	—	1
Smallpox .. .. .	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .	—	1	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. .. .	—	—	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	1	3	1
Chickenpox .. .. .	1	3	—
Malaria .. .. .	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .. .. .	1	3	—
Food Poisoning .. .. .	9	2	—
Undulant Fever .. .. .	1	1	—
Total .. .. .	129	244	76

## ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

The distribution of cases in age groups and Parishes is shown in the following two tables :—

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ..	—	3	14	—	—	—	—	—	17
Whooping Cough	3	25	22	—	—	—	—	—	50
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	5
Meningococcal Infect. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fev.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fev.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Chickenpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. ..	3	28	36	—	7	2	—	—	76

## DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

	Ashton Keynes	Braydon	Broad Town	Clyffe Pypard	Cricklade	Latton	Leigh	Lydiard Milllicent	Lydiard Tregoze	Lynham	Marston Meysey	Purton	Tockenham	Wootton Bassett	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	17
Whooping Cough	—	—	3	—	4	—	2	1	—	12	1	—	5	22	50
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marlaia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	—	11	—	7	—	4	1	—	15	1	—	5	30	76

**Scarlet Fever :**

Compared with 1953 the incidence increased from 5 to 17 cases. On the whole the disease was of a mild nature and without complications. In fact, in several incidences the first case in a family was brought to light by the second.

**Whooping Cough :**

The number of cases notified increased from 25 to 50 compared with 1953. Three cases occurred in the under 1 year group and the remainder were almost equally divided between 1-5 and 5-15 age groups. Enquiries regarding protection against the disease under County Council auspices increased and it is understood that a protection scheme will be initiated in 1955.

**Diphtheria :**

No cases were reported.

**Measles :**

No cases were recorded in marked contrast to 1953 when 194 cases were notified.

**Dysentery :**

As in 1953 only two cases were recorded and no specific organisms were isolated in either case.

**Poliomyelitis :**

No cases were notified.

**Food Poisoning :**

No cases were notified.

**TUBERCULOSIS****New Cases**

Year			No. of Cases
1954	..	..	12
1953	..	..	32
1952	..	..	15
1951	..	..	15

Distribution of new cases and deaths according to age and sex is as follows :—

Age	New cases Male	Male Deaths	New cases Female	Female Deaths	Total	
					New Cases	Deaths
Under 1 year	—	1	—	—	—	1
1-5 years	1	—	—	—	1	—
1-15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	1	—	2	—	3	—
25-35 years	2	—	1	—	3	—
35-45 years	1	—	1	—	2	—
45-55 years	—	—	—	1	—	1
55-65 years	—	—	1	—	1	—
65 and over	2	2	—	—	2	2
Age unkn'n	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	3	5	1	12	4

### HOUSING OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

During the year 3 cases were referred by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :—

**Certificate No. 1.** Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

**Certificate No. 2.** Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

**Certificate No. 3.** Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

The following is a summary of the cases dealt with during the year :—

Type of case	No. cases referred	No. cases re-housed
Certificate No. 1	—	—
Certificate No. 2	3	1
Certificate No. 3	—	—
Total	3	1

## GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

### Laboratory Facilities :

The Swindon Area Pathological Laboratory of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board caters for the needs of the District.

### Hospital Facilities :

These are the responsibility of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

The main general hospitals are situated at Stratton St. Margaret (in the Highworth Rural District) and Swindon which also provide accommodation for Maternity cases in a separate institution.

Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Area Isolation Hospital, Swindon, while the nearest Smallpox Hospital is located at Reading. Cases under the National Assistance Act, 1948 are admitted to Elm Court, Stratton St. Margaret.

### Other Facilities :

Arrangements for the following health services operating in the District are made by the County Health Committee :—

- Care of expectant and nursing mothers, and young children ;
- Domiciliary Midwifery ;
- Health Visiting ;
- Home Nursing ;
- Vaccination and immunisation ;
- Ambulances and ambulance cars ;
- Domestic helps ;
- Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, for the prevention of illness, care and after-care ; and health education.
- Mental Health Service.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is carried out by General Practitioners and County Council Medical Officers and the following table gives details for the year under review :—



Age Groups in years	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-15	Total under 15
Primary imms. completed during 1954 .. ..	110	85	14	5	3	27	17	261
Reinf. inj.s. administered during 1954 ..	—	—	—	—	7	142	79	228
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec., 1954	23	136	139	170	211	* † 214/954	* † 396/617	2860

\* Not immunised since 31.12.49.

† Immunised since 31.12.49.

### VACCINATION

Age Groups in years	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations	93	6	3	2	1
Re-vaccinations	—	—	4	9	22

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47, Removal to Suitable Premises  
of Persons in need of Care and Attention.

During the year one case was investigated but no action was necessary.



# REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1954

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#### TABULAR SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

# REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND THE HOUSING OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1954

To : The Chairman and Members of the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-fifth Annual Report on the work carried out in my Department.

## HOUSING

### Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year

(a) By Local Authority	.. .. .	105
(b) Private Enterprise	.. .. .	17

### Inspection of Dwellings during the year

(i) Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts	..	40
(ii) Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts		109
(iii) Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	.. ..	87
(iv) Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation		
Inspected under Housing Acts	.. ..	22
Inspected under Public Health Act	..	34

### Remedy of defects by Informal Action

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action	.. .. .	22
--	---------	----

### Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts)

(A) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Acts, 1936		
(i) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		—
(ii) Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By Owners	.. .. .	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		—
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts		
(i) Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	.. .. .	5

(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners .. .. .	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made ..	1
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders .. .. .	2
(iii)	Number of undertakings accepted .. ..	—
(iv)	Number of undertakings completed .. ..	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 25 and 26 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	—
(ii)	Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	—
(E)	Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made .. .. .	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit .. .. .	—

### Housing Act 1936—Overcrowding

Number of overcrowded cases discovered in 1954 ..	Nil
Number of cases of overcrowding brought forward from 1953 .. .. .	9
Number of overcrowded cases abated during the year	Nil
Number of overcrowded cases at end of 1954 .. ..	9

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954

This Act came into operation on August 30th, 1954.

**Part I.** It was decided to re-inspect houses which had been placed in categories 4 and 5 in the Rural Housing Survey, and a start was made on category 5 houses. Up to December 31st, 1954, 109 houses had been inspected. It was found that repairs and improvements had been carried out at a number of them and 87 were scheduled for action under the above Act.

**Part II.** As there was not a single application from a tenant for a Certificate of Disrepair, no action was taken under this part of the Act.

### **Housing Act 1949.**

More owners took advantage of this Act for improving their houses. Applications for Improvement Grants were made in respect of 14 houses of which 12 were approved, 1 was rejected and 1 was under consideration on December 31st, 1954. The estimated cost of the works of improvement was £4001 and grants totalling £1694 were made.

### **Rural Housing Survey**

A revision of the total of the houses to be surveyed was made during the year resulting in a decrease of 191. The reduction was accounted for by houses originally having a rateable value limit of £17, being taken above this limit by re-valuation, improvement, additions, repairs and conversions, and to the removal of houses, erected or purchased by the Air Ministry, from the original total.

My anticipation that the survey would be completed in 1954 was not realised and at the end of the year there were still 78 houses to be surveyed.

The following are the details of the survey—

(a) Number of houses to be surveyed .. .. .	3064
(b) Number of houses inspected, measured and recorded during the year .. .. .	177
(c) Total number of houses inspected, measured and recorded to December 31st, 1954 .. .. .	2986
(d) Number of houses not yet commenced .. .. .	78

The 2986 houses surveyed were placed in categories as follows :

Category 1—984	which is 33 % of the number surveyed
“ 2—592	“ “ 20 % “ “ “ “
“ 3—939	“ “ 31 % “ “ “ “
“ 4—213	“ “ 7 % “ “ “ “
“ 5—258	“ “ 8½ % “ “ “ “

The interpretations of the categories are :—

- 1—Satisfactory in all respects
- 2—Minor defects
- 3—Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements.
- 4—Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing Acts 1949 and 1952.
- 5—Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

## Housing Applications

The number of applicants for council houses on December 31st 1954 was 404. This is only 29 less than the number on January 1st 1954, although 105 council houses were built during the year. There was a decrease in the number of applicants in all parishes, excepting Broad Town and Wootton Bassett. The increases in these two parishes were 1 and 13 respectively. There were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as many applications from householders than from persons living in rooms.

A number of enquiries were made by and a great number of letters were received from applicants desirous of ascertaining their position as regards tenancies of council houses.

Before the submission of his application to the Housing Selection Committee, the details of every application received from a person living within the boundaries of the district are checked.

Number of visits to premises re housing applications . . . 137

PARISH	No. of applicants as on 31.12.54		Total No. of Applicants		Increase or decrease	No. of applicants who were over-crowded 31.12.54
	who are householders	who are in rooms	Dec. 31st '54	Dec. 31st '53		
Ashton Keynes	11	10	21	25	-4	—
Braydon	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad Town	6	6	12	11	+1	—
Cricklade	78	11	89	93	-4	1
Clyffe Pypard	4	1	5	7	-2	—
Latton	3	—	3	6	-3	1
Leigh	3	1	4	16	-12	—
Lydiard Millicent	17	8	25	25	—	—
Lydiard Tregoze	4	—	4	4	—	—
Lyneham	13	8	21	28	-7	—
Marston Meysey	2	4	6	6	—	—
Purton	29	24	53	64	-11	—
Tockenham	2	—	2	2	—	—
Wootton Bassett	116	43	159	146	+13	1
	288	116	404	433	-29	3



## SIZES OF FAMILIES OF APPLICANTS

Man, Wife and						
No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	Over 5 Children
127	130	79	36	18	4	10
Percentage of the Total						
31.4	32.2	19.6	8.9	4.4	1.0	2.5

## APPLICATION FOR AGED PERSON'S DWELLINGS.

Parish	Number of Applicants on December 31st, 1954			Total No. of appli- cants on December 31st 1953
	Married couples	Widows' Widowers and single persons	Total	
Cricklade ..	5	4	9	2
Purton ..	5	4	9	2
Wootton Bassett	13	6	19	18
	23	14	37	22

## Provision of New Houses

The record for the yearly erection of post-war council houses attained in 1953 was broken in 1954. At Cricklade 16 three-bedroom "Traditional" houses were built, 16 three-bedroom "Unity" houses were erected at Leigh, 27 three-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom "Unity" houses were built at Purton, and at Wootton Bassett 34 three-bedroom "Orlit" and 8 "Traditional" bungalows (4 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom) were erected.

New council houses were erected in the following parishes :—

Parish	New Traditional	Traditional	Aged Person's Dwellings	Total
Cricklade ..	—	16	—	16
Leigh .. ..	16	—	—	16
Purton ..	31	—	—	31
Wootton Bassett	34	—	8	42
	81	16	8	105

One post-war council house at Culverhay, Cricklade was sold in 1954.

All the houses built in 1954 were drained to existing sewers and small sewage installations.

At the end of the year there was one council house to every 5 other houses (including Air Ministry houses) and to every 20 inhabitants (including R.A.F. personnel). One post-war council house had been erected for every 42 inhabitants.

The number of pre-war and post-war council houses and the percentage of council houses in each parish is shown in the following table :—

PARISHES	Total No. of houses	No. of Council Houses including Aged Person's Dwellings			% of houses owned by Local Authority
		Erected pre-war	Erected post-war	Total	
Ashton Keynes	271	17	18	35	12.9
Braydon ..	17	—	—	—	—
Broad Town ..	154	16	20	36	23.4
Clyffe Pypard ..	117	14	2	16	13.7
Cricklade ..	467	30	51	81	17.3
Latton ..	131	4	9	13	9.9
Leigh ..	105	10	30	40	38.1
Lydiard Millicent	260	28	12	40	15.4
Lydiard Tregoze	156	10	8	18	11.5
Lyneham ..	*608	40	12	52	8.5
Marston Meysey	63	6	6	12	19.0
Purton ..	835	83	88	171	20.5
Tockenham ..	37	—	4	4	10.8
Wootton Bassett	1162	88	233	321	27.6
	4383	346	493	839	19.1

\* includes 320 Air Ministry houses.



# Types of Council Houses in each Parish :—

PARISH	Tradi- tional	Airey	Reema	Orlit	Unity	Swedish Timber
Ashton Keynes ..	21	14	—	—	—	—
Braydon ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broad Town ..	28	8	—	—	—	—
Clyffe Pypard ..	14	—	—	—	—	2
Cricklade ..	61	10	—	—	10	—
Latton ..	13	—	—	—	—	—
Leigh ..	10	14	—	—	16	—
Lydiard Millicent ..	40	—	—	—	—	—
Lydiard Tregoze ..	10	—	—	—	—	8
Lyneham ..	42	10	—	—	—	—
Marston Meysey ..	12	—	—	—	—	—
Purton ..	113	18	—	—	40	—
Tockenham ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Wootton Bassett	191	50	14	44	22	—
	559	124	14	44	88	10

33½% of council houses are non-traditional.

## Inspection of Council Houses.

60 visits were made to council houses. Note was made of possible overcrowding, the keeping of animals, presence of vermin, the keeping of lodgers or sub-letting and the condition in which the occupiers kept their premises. The Surveyor is acquainted of the fact if repairs are needed.

Although in two instances check visits had to be made, there were no instances of really dirty houses as have occurred in previous years.

## Temporary Dwellings

Other than a few instances where persons had ejectment orders made on them and were given Blakehill tenancies to avoid eviction, huts at Blakehill were not re-let after becoming vacant.

49 huts were not re-let, the fittings being taken into store and subsequently sold. Quite a number of these huts were sold.

The number of temporary dwellings on December 31st, 1954 was :—

Cricklade (Blakehill) ..	62
Lydiard Park ..	127
	<hr/>
	189

Number of visits to temporary dwellings .. .. 91

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

### Nuisances

No. of nuisances discovered	.. .. .	42
No. of nuisances abated	.. .. .	38
No. of inspections made for the purpose	..	113

### Verminous Premises

Complaints were received from the owners or occupiers of 20 houses of vermin infestation.

Five houses were infested with fleas. In one instance three adjoining houses were infested from the middle one whose tenant vacated the premises shortly after they were treated. Another house was found to be infested after an old person had been removed to a Home.

Seven houses were badly infested with cockroaches.

One council house was infested with *Bryobia Praetiosa* which is a mite which is thought to come from and live on vegetation. It is more of a nuisance than anything else and is not harmful.

All the above premises were treated with DDT/Lindane disinfectors and Gammexane and DDT. spray.

Advice was given to the occupiers of seven houses where there was an excessive number of flies.

Number of visits to verminous premises	..	38
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### Moveable Dwellings

The number of licences issued to station and use moveable dwellings remained practically the same as last year. Twenty-six licences were granted, 8 of these being new licences. Twenty-four were caravans of modern type and two were converted motor buses. One of these motor buses had been ideally reconstructed.

Number of visits re moveable dwellings	.. ..	35
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### Smoke Abatement

I am pleased to report that for the first time in a number of years I have not received a single complaint of nuisance created by the emission of smoke, and particularly grit, from the boiler stack of the United Dairies Milk Factory, Wootton Bassett.

In April 1954 the Company scrapped the inadequate grit arrester and installed a new type multi-cyclone arrester incorporating a patent method of arresting grit and ash which has proved entirely satisfactory.

### Drainage and Sewerage

Although there may not be a sewer available, it is now very unusual for a house to be erected without a water closet, whereas under the same circumstances before the end of the war, the provision of a pail closet was a frequent occurrence.

Drainage from all post-war council houses has been taken to small sewage installations where a sewer has not been available.

Sewage works exist at Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett and the sewers serve the built-up areas of these parishes. There are also sewers and a sewage works at Lyneham, constructed and maintained by the Air Ministry. The sewers take only the drainage of married quarters, Air Ministry property, and the new Lyneham school.

At Cricklade the sewers discharge to three sewage wells, sewage being pumped from one well to the next until it is pumped from the third well to settling tanks. It is finally irrigated.

The sewers at Purton and Wootton Bassett discharge to detritus chambers where silt is collected, and the sewage then flows to settling tanks and through percolating filters to humus tanks, the effluent being discharged to streams.

There has been no complaint as to the condition of the effluent.

Number of houses served by W.C's and draining to cesspits .. .. .	621
Number of houses served by pail closets and draining to cesspits .. .. .	438
Total number of houses draining to cesspits .. .. .	1059
Total number of houses draining to small sewage installations .. .. .	104
Total number of houses connected to sewers .. .. .	2174
Percentage of houses connected to sewers .. .. .	49.60
Percentage of houses served by water closets and draining to cesspits .. .. .	14.17
Percentage of houses draining to cesspits but having pail closets .. .. .	9.99
Percentage of houses drained to cesspits .. .. .	24.16
Percentage of houses drained to small sewage installations .. .. .	2.37
Percentage of houses drained to sewers, small sewage installations and cesspits .. .. .	76.13

(The above figures include Air Ministry houses but not temporary dwellings)

Number of visits re drainage .. .. .	85
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## Public Conveniences

There is only one public convenience in the whole of the district and this is situate at Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

## Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection for the whole of the district is carried out weekly by means of two 10 cub. yard "Dennis" refuse vehicles. This work increases yearly.

Every year I have to report the difficulty of keeping the refuse tips as I would wish to, owing to the virtual non-existence of soil for covering material. Tips are situate at the old canal, Ballick-acre, Cricklade, the old canal, The Pry, Purton and Wootton Bassett sewage works.

The full complement of 2 drivers and 4 loaders was available on only six weeks during the year, the rest of the time there were 2 drivers and 3 loaders. It is extremely difficult, owing to full employment in the area, to obtain men for this type of work.

Rat infestation at the tips is kept to a minimum by the regular treatment of the tips. DDT is used for keeping down the fly and cricket nuisances.

Number of visits re public cleansing .. .. . 100

### Salvage

Trailers are used for the collection of waste paper at the same time as refuse is collected.

Contrary to my remarks in previous annual reports, I have experienced no difficulty in 1954 in selling waste paper, and the prices received from the firm purchasing the paper, are always current market prices.

The amount of waste paper and rags put out for collection diminished during 1954.

The details of the sales of salvageable waste materials are as follows :—

Waste Material	Weight			Receipts		
	t.	c.	q.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	51.	9	0	347	4	10
Scrap iron ..	17	11	3	58	12	3
Textiles .. ..	11	1		5	11	7
	69	12	0	411	8	8

Number of visits re salvage .. .. . 19

### Refuse and Salvage—Collection and Disposal Costs (Financial year ended 31st March, 1955)

Cost of refuse and salvage collections and disposal	£3862	6	4
Receipts—refuse and salvage .. .. .	£429	10	8
Cost of refuse and salvage collection and disposal to General Rate Fund .. .. .	£3432	15	8
Net cost of refuse and salvage collection and disposal per habitable house (including tem- porary and Air Ministry houses) .. .. .		15/0.2	

Net cost of refuse and salvage collection and disposal	
—per head of population .. .. .	4/2.205
—per 1000 population .. .. .	£209 3 9

Mileage of refuse vehicles—(Year ended December 31st, 1954) :—

No. 1 vehicle .. .. .	8594
No. 2 vehicle .. .. .	8685

Running cost of refuse vehicles per mile (Year ended December 31st, 1954) :—

No. 1 vehicle .. .. .	1/0.83
No. 2 vehicle .. .. .	1/2.98

Miles per gallon (Year ended December 31st, 1954) :—

No. 1 vehicle .. .. .	7.52
No. 2 vehicle .. .. .	7.04

### Infectious Diseases

All patients suffering from infectious disease were isolated at home.

There were three instances when someone in the house where infectious disease was present, was employed at a dairy farm. In one of these cases the person was put on other work not connected with milk or milk utensils, and in the other two cases it was ensured that all milk leaving the farms was pasteurised before it reached the consumer.

Number of visits re infectious disease .. .. .	21
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## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938-1950

### Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954

There was a gradual change during the year from the sale of non-designated to designated milk.

From October 1st 1954 it was illegal for distributors to buy pasteurised milk in bulk and bottle it on their premises, but a number had ceased to do this for some time previously. All through 1954 a firm sold and delivered milk which had been pasteurised and bottled on their premises, to distributors for retail sale.

No. of Milk Distributors on the register .. .. .	14
No. of Distributors dairies on the register .. .. .	9
No. of inspections made under the Regulations .. .. .	17

### Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954

No. of "Tuberculin Tested" dealers licences .. .. .	10
No. of Supplementary "Tuberculin Tested" dealers licences .. .. .	5



## Milk (Special Designation ) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations 1949 to 1953

No. of " Pasteurised' ' dealers licences .. .. .	6
No. of Supplementary " Pasteurised " dealers licences .. .. .	4

### Milk Sampling

The regular sampling of milk for Methylene Blue and biological tests was carried out during the year. Samples were obtained from all producer/retailers and distributors. Only 6 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for the phosphatase test as samples were regularly taken by inspectors at the premises at which the milk was pasteurised. These premises were situate in other districts.

Samples were taken from 9 producer/retailers.

Number of milk samples submitted for :—

Methylene Blue test only .. .. .	61
Phosphatase test only .. .. .	6
Biological test only .. .. .	6
Biological and Methylene Blue tests .. .. .	21

Results of Milk Sampling								
Methylene Blue			Phosphatase			Biological		
Passed	Failed	%	Passed	Failed	%	Passed	Failed	%
60	22	73	6	Nil	100	27	Nil	100

Of the 82 milk samples examined, 61 were samples of Tuberculin Tested milk and 21 of these samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue test giving a failure of 34.4%. Of the 21 raw milk samples examined there was only 1 failed the Methylene Blue test or 4.7%

### Ice Cream

Traders continue to apply for registration of their premises for the sale and storage of ice cream and registration is withheld until the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act are satisfied. The majority of the parishes in the district have a shop or shops selling one or other of the prepacked brands and there were 30 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream and 2 premises for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream. In addition the district is traversed by several travelling vans from depots of the large prepacked brand manufacturers. The vendors selling loose ice cream from carts or vans have almost completely disappeared.

All traders with storage licences only, sold the prepacked article supplied by manufacturers producing outside the district. During the year only one of the 2 traders registered to manufacture in the district, operated, and this trader produced ice cream made by the hot mix method.

The bad summer affected the sale of ice cream and on several occasions it was discovered that stocks of ice cream had been in shop conservators for several weeks, and this may be the reason for the only average showing of the samples on Methylene Blue tests. 20 samples were taken during the year and no B.Coli was discovered in any of these samples.

Manufacturer	Provisional Grading			
	1	2	3	4
A ..	1	1	1	1
Percentage ..	25%	25%	25%	25%
B ..	2	1	1	—
Percentage ..	50%	25%	25%	—
C ..	2	1	—	—
Percentage ..	66 $\frac{2}{3}$ %	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %	—	—
D ..	1	3	—	—
Percentage ..	25%	75%	—	—
E ..	—	1	—	—
Percentage ..	—	100%	—	—
F ..	1	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100%	—	—	—
G ..	2	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100%	—	—	—
H ..	1	—	—	—
Percentage ..	100%	—	—	—
Totals ..	10	7	2	1
Percentages ..	50%	35%	10%	5%

## Meat

On July 1st 1954 after more than 14 years, a return to private slaughtering took place. Previous to this nine butchers had notified their desire to slaughter on their own premises, and inspections of the slaughterhouses and lairs used by them previous to January 1940, were carried out. All nine slaughterhouses were licensed in May 1954, but no slaughtering was carried out at one of them during the year. A schedule of works required to bring

the premises up to a satisfactory condition was attached to every licence. Work at one slaughterhouse was completed in 1954 and repairs and alterations were in hand at five others.

Every animal killed in a slaughterhouse has been inspected and this has entailed a very considerable amount of time. At two slaughterhouses where animals were killed for sale outside the district, killing takes place on four evenings per week, on Sundays, and also on certain Bank holidays.

There were 18 calves out of a total of 20972 found to be affected with congenital tuberculosis. Five of these calves had no means of identification, but details of the other 13 were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Officer for the particular area. The dams of 10 of the 13 calves were found to be affected with tuberculosis, one of the dams was not affected and 2 of the dams were untraceable.

There were 2000 less animals killed in 1954 than in the previous year, but there were 320 cattle and 253 pigs slaughtered against nil and 18.

Number of visits to and inspections made at slaughter-							
houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	836
Number of visits made to butchers shops	..	..					9

#### Animals killed and carcases examined

	Cattle other than cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No. of animals killed ..	178	71	20972	253	1997	23471
No. of animals inspected ..	178	71	20972	253	1997	23471



## Condemned Meat

	Cattle other than cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
<b>Condemned for Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses	1	1	18	—	—	20
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was condem- ned .. ..	10	4	13	2	—	29
Total number of animals affected with tuberculosis	11	5	31	2	—	49
Percentage of the number inspected which were affect- ed with tubercu- losis ..	6.18	7.04	0.15	0.79	—	0.21
<b>Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis</b>						
Whole carcasses	—	—	68	—	4	72
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was condem- ned .. ..	27	12	845	43	121	1048
Total number of animals affected with diseases other than tuber- culosis ..	27	12	913	43	125	1120
Percentage of the number inspected which were affect- ed with diseases other than tuber- culosis ..	15.17	16.90	4.35	17.00	6.26	4.77

<b>Condemned for all Diseases</b>						
Whole carcasses	1	1	86	—	4	92
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	16	858	45	121	1077
Total number of animals affected with disease ..	38	17	944	45	125	1169
Percentage of the number inspected which were affected with disease	21.35	23.94	4.50	17.79	6.26	4.98

### Weights of Condemned Meat

				Condemned in slaughterhouses			Condemned in shops		
				T.	c.	q. lbs.	T.	c.	q. lbs.
Beef	..	..		—	13	— 24	—	5	— 6
Veal	..	..		1	18	3 16	—	—	— —
Pork and Bacon	..	..		—	—	— 22	—	—	— —
Mutton and Lamb	..	..		—	1	3 14	—	—	— —
Offal	..	..	..	1	4	— 19	—	—	— —
					3	18		—	5 — 6

				Condemned for Tuberculosis			Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis		
				T.	c.	q. lbs.	T.	c.	q. lbs.
Beef	..	..		—	9	2 16	—	7	— 17
Veal	..	..	..	—	8	2 18	1	10	— 26
Pork and Bacon	..	..		—	—	— 19	—	1	2 —
Mutton and Lamb	..	..		—	—	— —	—	1	3 14
Offal	..	..	..	—	3	— 24	1	—	3 23
				1	1	2 21	3	1	2 24
Percentage of the total of condemned meat .. ..				26			74		

### **Tuberculosis in Calves**

There was a reduction in the percentage of calves found to be affected with tuberculosis, in fact it is the lowest percentage since the keeping of records relating to congenital tuberculosis was commenced. The following table will give figures showing how a reduction to approximately one fifth of the incidence in 1940 has taken place.

Year	No. of calves killed	No. of tubercular calves	Percentage of calves affected with tuberculosis
1940	14095	102	0.72
1941	13588	116	0.85
1942	15190	104	0.68
1943	15293	90	0.59
1944	16702	82	0.49
1945	16985	101	0.60
1946	20231	95	0.47
1947	22002	86	0.39
1948	20184	91	0.45
1949	19313	68	0.35
1950	21397	71	0.33
1951	21929	64	0.29
1952	24360	47	0.19
1953	24770	49	0.20
1954	20972	31	0.15

### **Slaughter on Animals Act**

On December 31st 1954 there were 20 licensed slaughtermen in the district.

### **Knackers Yard**

One premise is licensed as a knackers yard, but no animals were slaughtered or dead animals brought there, throughout the year.

## Other Foods

The amount of unsound food surrendered voluntarily by shopkeepers during the year was less than for many previous years. Details are as follows :—

				Tins
Corned beef	..	..	..	8
Peas	..	..	..	8
Tinned fruits	..	..	..	4
Condensed Milk	..	..	..	1
Tomato Puree	..	..	..	1
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	1
Herrings	..	..	..	1
				—
				24
				—
Walnuts	..	..	..	14 lbs.

## Food Premises

It was noticed during inspections of food premises that the standard of cleanliness was on the whole fairly high. When the attention of the shopkeepers was directed to any particular matter, they were usually co-operative and a number have provided glass cases for cake and pastries, and refrigerated cases for meat and meat products. Refrigerators have been installed in the majority of the shops.

In some instances hot water for washing hands was supplied by heating a kettle on a gas stove or ring, or from a back boiler. In my opinion this is not entirely satisfactory and a number of gas or electric sink water heaters have been installed.

At one premise cheese was kept where it could be contaminated by vermin and it did in fact show evidence of having been nibbled by mice. A request was made for providing adequate protection for the cheese and the local authority (upon request) treated the premises for the eradication of the mice.

There was a reduction during the year of the number of bakehouses from 11 to 7. Inspections of bakehouses showed the conditions existing at the premises to be generally good. One complaint was received about dark patches in some loaves from a bakehouse and the cause was traced to some stale dough left on one of the machines.

The number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act was .. .. . 39

The number of visits made to premises where food is prepared, handled or stored was :—

No. of visits to	ice-cream premises	..	..	23
" " " "	bakehouses	..	..	17
" " " "	fishmongers	..	..	1
" " " "	grocers and fruiterers	.	..	30
" " " "	cafes and other food preparing			
	premises	..	..	16
" " " "	butchers shops	..	..	15
Total visits to food premises				102

### Food Poisoning

In February, following an outbreak of food poisoning in England suspected to have been caused by a certain brand of cream, 27 shops were visited but this kind of cream was not sold at any of them.

In August cases of illness were reported in an adult and child alleged to have been caused by eating sweets. Samples of the sweets were submitted for analysis but were found to be quite satisfactory. The sweets had been eaten by a number of other people with no ill effects. It was impossible to obtain specimens of food consumed by the persons affected. Faecal specimens obtained from the family and also the shopkeeper, were all negative.

In December a boy and his father had sickness and diarrhoea said to have been caused by eating cheese purchased outside the district. Fortunately a specimen of the cheese was obtained and *Staphylococcus Aureus* was found. The local authority in whose area the shop was situate, were informed but all the cheese from which the portion causing the illness had been cut, had been sold and there had been no complaint made to the authority.

Number of visits re food poisoning	..	..	42
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### Licensed Premises

During 1954, 24 licensed premises were visited and attention was paid to cleanliness, the general structural condition, facilities for washing drinking utensils, and the sanitary accommodation. Where food was sold the facilities provided for the protection of the food was noted.

At eleven of the premises conditions were not in all respects satisfactory, but on December 31st 1954, the necessary work had either been completed or had been put in hand at six of them. Of the other five public houses, the facilities for washing drinking utensils and the sanitary accommodation at two of them, were

unsatisfactory whilst one of the remainder lacked washing facilities and the other two had insufficient sanitary accommodation. I have contacted the brewery firms concerned. One firm has decided to close their inn, another is waiting for the electricity supply to be carried to the vicinity, one firm owning two inns was endeavouring to purchase land for the remodelling of their drainage and one holds the premises on a lease which has only a short time to run.

Number of visits to licensed premises .. .. 37

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

During the year 43 inspections were made under the Factories Acts. The types of premises registered under the above Act are as follows :—

Aircraft maintenance shops	..	..	..	1
Bakehouses .. ..	..	..	..	7
Blacksmiths shops .. ..	..	..	..	2
Brickworks .. ..	..	..	..	1
Builders and carpenters .. ..	..	..	..	10
Condensed and evaporated milk manufactory ..	..	..	..	1
Coffin board makers .. ..	..	..	..	1
Dental manufactory .. ..	..	..	..	1
Dried milk manufactory .. ..	..	..	..	1
Egg grading depot .. ..	..	..	..	1
Engineering shops .. ..	..	..	..	5
Furniture maker and repairer .. ..	..	..	..	1
Gas works .. ..	..	..	..	2
Glove works .. ..	..	..	..	1
Grass drying plants .. ..	..	..	..	3
Gravel pits .. ..	..	..	..	1
Joinery works .. ..	..	..	..	1
Laundries .. ..	..	..	..	1
Local authority workshop .. ..	..	..	..	1
Motor and cycle repair shops .. ..	..	..	..	18
Pottery .. ..	..	..	..	1
Rope works .. ..	..	..	..	1
Saw mills .. ..	..	..	..	3
Sausage makers .. ..	..	..	..	1
Waterworks .. ..	..	..	..	2

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## Inspections

- (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities :—

No. on register	..	..	..	..	9
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	2
No. of written notices	..	..	..	..	2
No. of occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	..	—

- (ii) Factories and other Premises not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority :—

No. on register	..	..	..	..	59
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	41
No. of written notices	..	..	..	..	—
No. of occupiers prosecuted	..	..	..	..	—

## Defects

Cases in which defects were found :—

	Found	Remedied
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	.. 1	1
Other offences against the Act	.. 1	1

In addition one offence was referred by H.M. Inspector but the plant closed down subsequently.

## Outworkers

Wearing apparel—making of :—

No. of outworkers—					
Ashton Keynes	..	..	..	..	7
Cricklade	..	..	..	..	10
Lydiard Park	..	..	..	..	1

## WATER SUPPLIES

There has been no shortage of water during the year, but at the present rate of consumption, if a breakdown occurs which will take more than a day to rectify, there is not sufficient storage capacity in the Hook reservoir to give more than a 24 hours supply.

During the summer months the Clyffe Pypard supply greatly diminishes. Water to replace the lost yield has to be taken from Hook reservoir. There is also an increasing water consumption in Wootton Bassett and Lyneham. Replacement water for Clyffe Pypard supply and water to meet the needs of Wootton Bassett and Lyneham is carried through an 8 inch main reduced to a 6 inch main. The 6 inch main is now not quite sufficient to carry the water so as to allow any margin.

Chlorination of water is carried out at all sources of public supply.

Water used for public supply has no plumbo-solvent action.

During 1954, 132 houses were connected to public water mains. 122 connections were made to new houses and 10 connections were made to existing houses, 6 of them as the result of formal and 4 of informal action.

### Sources

Water for public supply is obtained from four sources situate at Ashton Keynes, Broad Town, Clyffe Pypard and Thornhill. The main supply is obtained from a borehole at Ashton Keynes. The yields at Broad Town and Clyffe Pypard are much less and that from Thornhill is very small.

A private supply at Clyffe Pypard provides water to a small number of premises.

### Storage

The storage capacity of the district approximates three quarters of a million gallons and is provided as follows :—

	Gallons
Reservoir at Hook .. .. .	500000
Reservoir at Cricklade .. .. .	60000
Elevated tank at Wootton Bassett .. .. .	50000
Underground tanks at Clyffe Pypard .. .. .	35000
Elevated tank at Ashton Keynes .. .. .	20000
Elevated tank at Purton (Pavenhill) .. .. .	20000
Underground tank at Purton (The Heading) .. .. .	17000
Elevated tank at Bradenstoke .. .. .	12000
Underground tank at Broad Town .. .. .	10000
	<hr/>
	724000

### Distribution

From the Ashton Keynes borehole water is pumped through a 10 inch main to the Hook reservoir. The reservoir at Cricklade and the Ashton Keynes tank are also supplied under pressure from this source. The tanks at Purton and Wootton Bassett and also an underground tank at Lyneham R.A.F. Station are fed by gravity from Hook reservoir, but water can also be boosted to Lyneham. The Air Ministry pump water from the low level tank to an elevated tank which feeds the Bradenstoke elevated tank. Water is distributed throughout the district by gravity from the storage tanks through mains varying from 8 inches to 1½ inches in diameter.

### Water Sampling

Samples of water are taken regularly from all sources of public supply and submitted for analysis, the number obtained in 1954 being 34.



There were 3 unfit samples from the Clyffe Pypard supply, but 2 of them were taken before the water had passed through the chlorinator.

A connection to the water main was made at one of the premises at Lydiard Millicent where the sample proved to be unfit, the connection was pending at another premise and the other two premises were not within statutory distance of a main.

At one premise in Lydiard Tregoze where two unfit samples were recorded, there is no water main. It is intended to build a new house near to the premises, to which water will be piped from a private source, and the owner of the polluted well will then seek permission to carry water on to his premises.

Thirteen samples were taken from 4 sources of water supply on an estate at Lydiard Tregoze, and of these 11 were unfit and 2 suspicious. Water was supplied to dwellings in this district and an adjoining one, and as 3 of the 4 sources were situate in the adjoining district, to avoid overlapping, the matter was left to my colleague in the other area. There is no public water main in the vicinity.

	Bacteriological		Chemical	
	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes	Fit for drinking purposes	Unfit for drinking purposes
<b>Taken from public supplies at</b>				
Ashton Keynes	6	—	1	—
Broad Town	9	—	—	—
Clyffe Pypard	9	3	—	—
Thornhill	4	1 (suspicious)	1	—
	28	3 1 (suspicious)	2	—
<b>Taken from private supplies in the parish of</b>				
Ashton Keynes	1	—	—	—
Lydiard Millicent	—	4	—	—
Lydiard Tregoze	1	13 2 (suspicious)	—	—
Lyneham	—	1	—	—
	2	18 2 (suspicious)	—	—

## Houses and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Ashton Keynes ..	229	822		
Braydon ..	15	54		
Broad Town ..	116	416		
Clyffe Pypard ..	66	237		
Cricklade ..	442	1586		
Latton ..	71	255		
Leigh ..	100	359		
Lydiard Millicent	248	890		
Lydiard Tregoze	106	380		
Lyneham ..	547	1963		
Marston Meysey	43	154		
Purton <sup>a</sup> ..	779	2796		
Tockenham ..	41	147		
Wootton Bassett	1118	4013	11	39
	3921	14072	11	39

## Houses and Population supplied from Private Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to houses (not including temporary dwellings)		Water supplied by means of a standpipe (not including temporary dwellings)	
	No. of houses	Estimated population	No. of houses	Estimated population
Broad Town	5	18		
Clyffe Pypard	29	104		
	34	122	—	—

# Temporary Dwellings and Population supplied from Public Water Mains

PARISH	Water supplied direct to temporary dwellings		Water supplied by means of standpipes on the sites	
	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population	No. of temporary dwellings	Estimated population
Cricklade	62	222		
Lydiard Tregoze	127	456		
	189	678	—	—

## Totals, Percentages, etc. re Water Supplies to Dwellings

### TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS

(i) Into or on to premises	3921
(ii) By means of a standpipe	11
	3932

### ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS (INCLUDING POPULATION OF TEMPORARY DWELLINGS)

(i) Into or on to premises	14750
(ii) By means of a standpipe	39
	14789

Total number of <b>houses</b> supplied from water mains (public and private)	3966
Total estimated <b>population</b> , including population of temporary dwellings supplied from water mains (public and private)	14911
Percentage of <b>houses</b> supplied from <b>public</b> water mains	89.71
Percentage of <b>houses</b> supplied from <b>private</b> water mains	0.78
Percentage of <b>houses</b> supplied from <b>water mains</b>	90.49
Percentage of the <b>estimated population</b> supplied from public water mains	90.12
Percentage of the <b>estimated population</b> supplied from <b>private</b> water mains	0.74
Percentage of the <b>estimated population</b> supplied from <b>water mains</b>	90.86
Number of visits re water supplies :—	
Public supplies	29
Private supplies	26

## THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The antiblood coagulant, Warfarin, has been used almost exclusively for the eradication of rats and mice during 1954. The only other poison used was Zinc Phosphide.

The weather conditions during the year have not been helpful. In spite of the continual war against rats, there still seems to be plenty of work for your Rodent Operator, but it is known that, especially as regards private and business premises, there is less trouble from rats than hitherto. The occupiers of business premises are alive to the damage which can be caused by rats and mice, both from loss of goods and from the hygienic point of view. Wherever rats and mice have been found on farms the farmers have asked the local authority to carry out disinfection.

I am pleased to report that the Council's sewers were, for the first time, all found to be free from rats.

The Council's refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected for the presence of rats and are treated a number of times during the year, thus keeping the rodents down to a minimum.

A free service is still given to occupiers of private premises.

The percentage reductions in the rat and mice infestation of premises inspected in 1954 are as follows :—

	RATS	MICE
Dwelling houses .. ..	8%	1%
Business premises .. ..	11%	2%
Agricultural premises ..	2%	—

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling House	Business Premises	Agricultural	
No. of properties inspected					
(a) after notification	—	34	9	6	49
(b) survey	12	673	106	113	904
(c) otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	197			197
Total properties inspected	12	904	115	119	1150
No. of properties infested					
by—rats	9	174	17	25	225
mice	—	19	4	1	24
% of the properties inspected which were infested by—					
rats	75.0	19.2	14.8	21.0	19.6
mice	—	2.1	3.5	0.8	2.1
No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	9	193	21	26	249
Total number of treatments (including re-treatments) carried out	15	218	23	32	288

## PETROLEUM ACT AND REGULATIONS

No. of licences issued to store petroleum .. ..	59
No. of licences issued to store petroleum and carbide ..	2
No. of licences issued to store carbide .. ..	1
No. of inspections of installations and store places ..	68

### Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits

There are still a number of complaints received which, upon investigation, have nothing whatsoever to do with matters concerning public health and generally are no concern of the Council. Unfortunately details of the matter are not known until a visit has been made to the premises.

Number of miscellaneous sanitary visits .. ..	25
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### National Assistance Act

In company with your Medical Officer one visit was made on complaint under this Act, to a woman living alone, but it was considered that no action should be taken.

### Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers

There are 4 dealers in old metal on the register, 2 in Wootton Bassett parish, 1 in Clyffe Pypard and 1 in Tockenham.



# TABULAR SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1954

Water supply .. .. .	55
Drainage .. .. .	85
Dealers in old metals .. .. .	3
Temporary dwellings .. .. .	91
Tents, vans and sheds .. .. .	35
Factories .. .. .	26
Bakehouses .. .. .	17
Council house inspections .. .. .	60
National Assistance Act .. .. .	1
Stage play licence .. .. .	1
Licensed premises .. .. .	37
Refuse collection .. .. .	46
Refuse disposal .. .. .	54
Damage by Pests Act .. .. .	2618
Nuisances .. .. .	113
Salvage .. .. .	19
Housing—Public Health Act .. .. .	126
Housing Act .. .. .	113
Verminous premises .. .. .	38
Miscellaneous Housing visits (enquiries etc. re housing applications) .. .. .	165
Rural Housing Survey .. .. .	87
Infectious diseases .. .. .	21
Meat inspection .. .. .	845
Butchers shops .. .. .	15
Food preparing premises .. .. .	16
Dairies .. .. .	17
Fishmongers .. .. .	1
Grocers .. .. .	30
Ice cream premises .. .. .	23
Milk sampling .. .. .	92
Food poisoning .. .. .	42
Petrol installations .. .. .	68
Miscellaneous visits .. .. .	25
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	4985
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